

material describing pending matters, but had not reviewed them extensively. On Monday or Tuesday of that week, Skibine was informed – probably by Duffy himself – that he would be accompanying Duffy to the Oberstar meeting.

Around 2 p.m., Duffy and Skibine joined the Congressmen, staffers and tribal leaders in Oberstar's office. It was a crowded meeting, with people packed into the Congressman's office, some even sitting on the floor. In addition to the hosts, Reps. Oberstar and Vento, the meeting was attended by Sen. Wellstone and four additional Democratic members of the Minnesota delegation: Reps. Luther, Minge, Peterson and Sabo. Most of the Congressmen were accompanied by at least one staff member each.¹⁵⁸

The meeting opened with the congressmen and the tribal leaders presenting their views of the application and the deficiencies in the MAO-BIA's process. Oberstar made the opening "pitch" against the Hudson casino proposal by pointing out how distant the land at issue was from the applicants' reservations.¹⁵⁹ Skibine said that Congressman Oberstar did not merely facilitate access for his constituents in this meeting, but openly advocated the tribes' opposition to the Hudson casino application. Wellstone, who recalls only attending the meeting for the first 30 minutes or so, made known his opposition and may have made some general comments about Indian matters.

¹⁵⁸Not all of the members were there for the entirety of the approximately hour-long meeting, but each was reportedly there for at least 20 to 30 minutes. There were no Republican members present, nor does it appear any were invited, despite the fact that Rep. Ramstad co-signed the letter requesting the meeting.

¹⁵⁹OIC Interview of James Oberstar, Dec. 1, 1998, at 4 (hereinafter "OIC Oberstar Int.").